



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**Vermont Department of Education**  
**120 State Street**  
**Montpelier, VT 05620-2501**

## **Montpelier Educator Awarded \$25,000 from Milken Foundation**

**MONTPELIER** – Tom Sabo, a Biology teacher at Montpelier High School, was surprised at an all-school assembly today with a \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Governor James Douglas presented the award. Commissioner Vilaseca explained the award, and Principal and Acting Superintendent Peter Evans convened the visit to the school without disclosing the true purpose, as required by Milken.

An educator at Montpelier High School for 13 years, Sabo is being recognized for his dedication to bring science to life. He was instrumental in getting a solar greenhouse at the school, which is used as a classroom for hands-on learning, as well as for growing fresh vegetables which are served throughout the school district. Food scraps are then composted at a local farm, and brought back to the school as soil. The greenhouse is integrated into the Biology curriculum throughout the grades. He is considered a statewide leader on teaching about sustainability. As noted in his nomination, "Tom exemplifies the transformative teacher leader who is so critical to reshaping teaching and learning for a green future." In an article on [examiner.com](http://examiner.com), he was introduced as "the high school teacher every parent wants for their child."

State Departments of Education recommend candidates to the Foundation. This was the fifth year that Vermont has participated in the awards process. Previous years' recipients Susan Hennessey of Harwood Union High School and John Pandolfo of Spaulding High School were on hand for today's event to congratulate Sabo. Also in attendance were state and local dignitaries.

Milken Educator Award recipients may use their unrestricted \$25,000 award in any way they wish. First awarded in 1987, the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards were created to reward, retain and attract the highest quality K-12 educators to the profession. This year Milken awarded 80 new Milken Educator Awards in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Sabo will also travel to Los Angeles in April to the Milken Educator Awards National Conference.

For more information, contact Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154, [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us) or visit <http://www.mff.org/>.

###